

2003 PVO CONFERENCE: ISSUES AND RESOURCES FOR PVO PARTNERS

Throughout the 2003 PVO Conference, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) staff presented information on grant opportunities and registration requirements for U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs). A summary follows.

PVO Registration

The Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation (PVC)-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) has begun implementing several changes to the PVO registration process. Revised final rules for registration will be issued by early November 2003.

Changes will include the following:

- USAID will limit initial registration to organizations with 501(c)(3) status, but will retain eligibility for cooperative development organizations. Any PVOs currently registered under non-501(c)(3) status will be grandfathered into the new registry, and will not be required to re-apply.
- Organizations must be incorporated for at least 18 months to be eligible for registration. Organizations undergoing an A-133 will have 9 months to submit annual reports to PVC for registration purposes. For those not undergoing an A-133, the 6-month deadline still applies.
- PVOs will be required to submit an audit as part of the registration process. For PVOs with annual revenues for international programs of \$50,000 or less, an audit is not required.

PVO registration regulations are posted on the USAID web site (www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVC), as is the full PVO registry.

Grant Opportunities in Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade

USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) offers two programs designed to improve the performance of microenterprise field programs. The Implementation Grant Program makes grants to PVOs and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) through a Request for Proposals (RFP) announced every year. The aim is to increase the availability of financial services and business development services, through increasing scale, reach, or efficiency and profitability of service providers. Grants are market-based; applicants must address how institutions will operate within a market and achieve sustainability.

Grants range from \$200,000 to \$2 million. Since the program's inception, about 100 grants have been awarded, totaling \$100 million.

A second EGAT activity--the Practitioner Learning Program--is administered by the Small Enterprise Education and Promotion (SEEP) network. Grants are generally for under \$250,000, and address two themes: conducting market assessments and putting microfinance client assessments to work. SEEP announces its RFP annually; information is available at www.seepnetwork.org.

Grant Opportunities in Global Health

USAID's global health programs are currently receiving unprecedented amounts of funding. HIV/AIDS programs are now funded at \$800 million, up from less than \$100 million 3 years ago, and the Child Survival program is being revitalized. USAID is also focusing on developing public-private activities to combat infectious disease and is examining the health impacts of family planning.

USAID's Bureau for Global Health is trying to make its programs more accessible and efficient. New mechanisms include the Annual Program Statement, which allows faster implementation of Requests for Proposals (RFPs). The Bureau will also offer more leader-associate grants and a new flexible fund for PVOs, which is Mission-driven.

The Bureau implements child survival, maternal health, HIV/AIDS, infectious disease, and family planning programs. PVOs should keep these priorities in mind when applying for assistance.

The Bureau's "User's Guide" serves as a road map for PVOs looking for grant opportunities (available at www.usaid.gov, Keyword: Health. Click on Publications). The guide describes USAID's child survival grant program and the Communities Responding to HIV/AIDS grant program. PVOs should also seek out relevant Annual Program Statements on the USAID web site, under procurement. Three draft global health Requests for Applications (RFAs) will be released on the USAID web site in October 2003.

Current PVC-ASHA Grant Opportunities

- A 2003 **Cooperative Development Program RFA** will be issued in early November at www.fedgrants.gov. The Cooperative Development Program's mission is to deliver the quality and magnitude of support needed to attract the resources necessary to enhance cooperative development worldwide.

The RFA focuses on financing learning and encourages cooperative law reform; participation of U.S. cooperative organizations; partnerships between U.S. cooperatives, PVOs, universities and other interested parties; and a more diverse funding base.

Eligibility for the RFA is limited to U.S. cooperatives or organizations with substantial membership and/or financial links to U.S. cooperatives and/or their associations. Applicants must also demonstrate a 5-year track record in overseas cooperative development.

- A 2003 **Ocean Freight Reimbursement RFA** was distributed at the PVO Conference (available at www.usaid.gov, Keyword: PVC). The deadline for applications is December 5, 2003.

The program pays transportation charges on shipments by PVOs registered with USAID to further the efficient use of U.S. voluntary contributions for development, relief and rehabilitation. PVO applicants must be registered with USAID at the time of submission, and must receive at least 20 percent of annual financial support from non-U.S. government sources.

Programs must be implemented in USAID-designated countries and involve a partnership with a local government, NGO or community group. PVOs must submit a consignee affidavit for each program, along with a duty-free status certification for each destination country.

Ocean Freight Reimbursement grants cannot be used in countries not on USAID's eligible country list, in countries not approved by PVC, or in situations where the PVO charges consumers a fee for commodities. Grants cannot be used to support commodities funded by USAID or U.S. government program funds, or to ship religious materials or P.L. 480 food aid.

- Ongoing **American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) grants** increase the ability of overseas schools, libraries, and hospital centers to demonstrate U.S. advancements in education and medical knowledge. Twenty-five new ASHA grants are awarded each year to U.S.-based organizations to build library and medical facility infrastructure and to provide supplies for these institutions (go to www.usaid.gov, Keyword: ASHA).

Infrastructural grants for academic buildings and medical facilities, and procurement grants for medical and educational equipment aim to:

- Build a technology base for integrated research and care in critical areas of medical science;
- Train independent thinkers with problem-solving abilities;
- Create a more efficient basis for communication and transfer of information between the U.S. and other countries; and
- Increase understanding between American peoples and those abroad.